

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 825

By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the dedicated staff and volunteers of Knoxville Area Rescue Ministries on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those invaluable charitable organizations that have contributed so much to the betterment of their communities and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Knoxville Area Rescue Ministries (KARM) is one such estimable organization, and its staff, its many volunteers, and all those who have been touched by its efforts are celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, KARM was founded in 1960, when a group of businessmen and ministers saw a need to feed the hungry men they saw on the streets; they purchased the Heska Amuna Synagogue and opened a shelter with Garrett Jager as the first Director; and

WHEREAS, several expansions have occurred over the years, including the opening of Serenity Shelter for women, the addition of New Life Inn to accommodate homeless families, and the expansion of the chapel, dining hall, and kitchen; the Abundant Life Kitchen, which trains the homeless in the culinary arts so they can find jobs in the food industry and dishes out 1,200 to 1,500 meals per day, was established in 2004; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the ministry expanded its services, opening the Crossroads Welcome Center, a safe place where the homeless can get off the streets during the day, use the bathroom and phones, and get help filling out job applications; the Center also provides referrals to other agencies who can help; and

WHEREAS, throughout 2010, KARM is commemorating its anniversary with the theme "Jubilee Celebration," which is derived from the Old Testament verse Leviticus 25: 9-12; the

logo for the celebration features an oak tree symbolizing strength and longevity, as well as a seedling representing new life and beginnings; and

WHEREAS, the mercy and help offered by KARM is especially needed in recent times; the ministry has experienced a seventeen-percent increase in the number of people served over the last year; and

WHEREAS, for fifty years, KARM has provided humanitarian and spiritual service to the homeless and needy of the Knoxville area; these efforts have helped countless Tennesseans return to economic independence, find a renewed sense of self-worth, and heal their spirits; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize the Knoxville Area Rescue Ministries on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary, thank its dedicated staff and volunteers for the outstanding service they have rendered to the people of the Knoxville community, and wish them every success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.